

B. 4412(3) SWALE
P.R.O. Region 12

SWALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1954



**FRANK HAUXWELL,
M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.), D.P.H. (Camb.),
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

Presented by

**J. T. MURPHY,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

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SWALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman — A. L. BAKER, Esq.

Parish	Councillors	
Badlesmere and Leaveland ...	Morgan-Kirby, D. W.	o
Bapchild	Baker, A. L.	ox
Bobbing and Iwade	Craddock, J. W.	ox
Borden	Hattie, W.	ox
Boughton	Rook, H.	x
Bredgar	Southern, J. D.	o
Buckland, Norton and Stone	Burbridge, E. J.	o
Doddington	Elvy, F.	o
Dunkirk	Ash, T. F.	
Eastling	Meeson, A. J.	
Faversham Without, Good- nestone and Graveney ...	Vinson, E.	
Halstow, Lower	Bennett, A. J.	x
Hartlip	Illingworth, W. G.	
Hernhill	Foreman, S. E.	
Kingsdown, Milsted and Rodmersham	White, W. H.	o
Luddenham	Stevens, S.	
Lynsted	Waters, F. H.	ox
Newington	Harlow, E. D.	x
Newnham	Prentis, J. E.	ox
Oare	Heathfield, G. L.	
Ospringe	Fisher, G. F.	
Selling	Gaskain, E. W.	x
Sheldwich	Milgate, E. T.	
Stalisfield	Lintott, P.	
Teynham	Moor, D. J.	x
Throwley	Hodgson, J. W.	
Tonge	Gascoyne, G. A. C.	x
Tunstall	Benstead, F. H.	
Upchurch	Bishop, C. C.	o

o Members of the Health Committee

x Members of the Housing Committee

Clerk of the Council — BRYAN TASSELL, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

FRANK HAUXWELL, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

J. T. MURPHY, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

From 1st February, 1955.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

Mr. R. K. DUNNING, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

District Sanitary Inspectors

Mr. C. G. A. RUDD, C.R.S.I.

Mr. R. A. O. BAMPTON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
M.R.I.P.H.H.

Clerical Staff

Miss R. A. PARKER

Rodent Operator

Mr. C. RICHARDS

SWALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
48 Bell Road,
Sittingbourne,
Kent.

The Chairman and Members of the
Swale Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Rural District for 1954.

The health of the people as far as can be ascertained from the death rate, infantile mortality rate and the incidence of infectious disease appears to be satisfactory. The crude birth and death rates over the past four years show very little fluctuation and both rates compare favourably with that of England and Wales. The infantile mortality rate which is a good index of the standard of social well-being remains at a low level—six infant deaths occurred of which four were during the first four weeks of life. These neo-natal deaths are often from factors which are similar to those causing still births, and it is in this sphere that one would hope to secure ever lower incidence in future years.

There were 257 notifications of infectious diseases of which Whooping Cough accounted for 151, and Whooping Cough is frequently a distressing illness and as the majority of the victims are of pre-school age there is a considerable amount of family upset from sleepless disturbed nights.

I have no evidence as to whether any of the children had been immunised, however, it is established that immunisation does provide a large measure of protection, and vaccinated children who develop Whooping Cough have less severe attacks.

Immunisation is now carried out to a large extent in association with diphtheria prophylaxis and the recent vaccines which are given subcutaneously do not cause the reactions which are sometimes noted with the intramuscular injections.

Inspection of meat became an additional item during the year and five slaughterhouses were licensed. In spite of this

and the increased amount of work each summer the work of the department has gone on smoothly.

Dr. Frank Hauxwell was your Medical Officer of Health for 1954, and this report is an account of the work carried out by his department during the year. I would like to record my thanks to Mr. R. K. Dunning, your Chief Sanitary Inspector, who is responsible for Sections V to VIII and for his help in preparing this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY.

SECTION I

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. CLIMATOLOGY

The total rainfall for the year was slightly higher than in the previous year, that recorded at the Faversham Sewage Works being 27.43 inches as compared with 20.34 in 1953, and that at the Highsted Water Works, Sittingbourne, 30.37 inches in 1954 as compared with 20.35 in 1953.

2. AREA

No change from 1953—62,015 (approximately 97 square miles).

3. POPULATION

The estimated mid-year population of the District as given by the Registrar-General was 20,140, showing an increase of 130 over last year's estimate, and an increase of 426 over the 1951 Census figure. The natural increase of the population, i.e., the excess of births over deaths during 1954 was 123.

4. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1954 was 6,431 as compared with 6,352 at the end of 1953—an increase of 79. Towards this increase 54 were built by the Council and 47 were constructed privately (total 101) but during the year other houses ceased to be used as living accommodation either by reason of demolition or conversion to other purposes so that the net increase was only 79.

5. RATEABLE VALUE

£87,224 as compared with £78,268 in the previous year.

6. SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE

£333 13s. 2d. an increase of £17 15s. 8d. over the figure for 1953.

SECTION II

VITAL STATISTICS

1. BIRTHS

1.	(i) Live Births	M.	F.	Total
	Legitimate ...	164 (148)	156 (127)	320 (275)
	Illegitimate	5 (5)	6 (11)	11 (16)
		169 (153)	162 (138)	331 (291)
	(ii) Still Births			
	Legitimate ...	5 (2)	1 (1)	6 (3)
	Illegitimate	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
		5 (2)	1 (1)	6 (3)

(iii) Birth Rate.—The crude birth rate for the year at 16.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population shows a slight increase as compared with 14.5 per 1,000 in 1953. The corrected birth rate for the area is 17.1, the rate for England and Wales being 15.2.

(iv) Percentage of Still Births and Illegitimate Rate.—The percentage of still births to total births has dropped from 2% in 1953 to 1.8% in 1954, and the illegitimate rate shows a decrease from 5.8% in 1953 to 3.4% in 1954.

(v) Excess of Births over Deaths.—This amounted to 123 for the year 1954 and shows an increase as compared with the corresponding figure for the year 1953 which was 80 and is only slightly less than 132 which was the figure for 1952.

(vi) Table I shows the number of births and birth rates since 1947.

2. DEATHS

(a) The number of deaths occurring in or assigned to the area during 1954 was 208 of which 114 were males and 94 females. This is a decrease on the number (211) which occurred in the previous year and as will be seen from Table I the number of deaths occurring in 1954 is below the average for the past eight years.

Footnote:—* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

The following statement shows the age and sex distribution of the deaths that occurred in 1954.

	Und. 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75-85	Over 85	Total
Male	2	1	2	—	2	1	8	13	41	35	9	114
Female	4	2	—	—	2	3	7	7	19	33	17	94
Total	6	3	2	—	4	4	15	20	60	68	26	208

(b) The crude death rate at 10.3 per 1,000 of the population shows a slight decrease over that of the previous year (10.5 per 1,000) and with the exception of that for 1952 is the lowest recorded over the past eight years. The corrected death rate for the area is 9.4 which compares favourably with the death rate of England and Wales which is 11.3.

(c) Table I shows the number of deaths and the death rates since 1947 and Table 2 shows the causes of death during 1954 classified by the Registrar-General under 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death.

TABLE I
Births and Deaths 1947-1954

Year	No. of Births	No. of Deaths	Excess of Births over Deaths	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate
1947	439	228	211	24.4	12.7
1948	391	219	172	20.3	11.4
1949	367	227	140	19.3	11.9
1950	359	241	118	18.8	12.6
1951	320	211	109	16.3	10.8
1952	325	193	132	16.3	9.8
1953	291	211	80	14.5	10.5
1954	331	208	123	16.4	10.3

TABLE 2
Causes of Death

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
2 Tuberculosis, other	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
3 Syphilitic disease	1 (—)	1 (—)	2 (—)
4 Diphtheria	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
5 Whooping Cough	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
6 Meningococcal infections	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
7 Acute poliomyelitis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
8 Measles	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	— (1)	— (1)	— (2)
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5 (2)	2 (5)	7 (7)
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	4 (10)	2 (1)	6 (11)
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	— (—)	8 (4)	8 (4)
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	— (—)	1 (1)	1 (1)
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	13 (19)	8 (8)	21 (27)
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
16 Diabetes	(—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	15 (13)	15 (8)	30 (21)
18 Coronary disease, angina	18 (12)	10 (6)	28 (18)
19 Hypertension with heart disease ..	3 (1)	— (3)	3 (4)
20 Other heart disease	22 (23)	21 (26)	43 (49)
21 Other circulatory disease	4 (3)	10 (2)	14 (5)
22 Influenza	1 (2)	— (6)	1 (8)
23 Pneumonia	3 (5)	2 (2)	5 (7)
24 Bronchitis	5 (5)	2 (3)	7 (8)
25 Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2 (1)	— (—)	2 (1)
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	2 (1)	— (—)	2 (1)
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	— (—)	— (1)	— (1)
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	1 (2)	1 (1)	2 (3)
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	4 (2)	— (—)	4 (2)
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	— (—)	1 (1)	1 (1)
31 Congenital malformations	2 (1)	1 (—)	3 (1)
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	4 (2)	4 (6)	8 (8)
33 Motor vehicle accidents	3 (9)	— (—)	3 (9)
34 All other accidents	1 (6)	2 (2)	3 (8)
35 Suicide	— (1)	— (—)	— (1)
36 Homicide and operations of war ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
All causes	114(122)	94 (89)	208(211)

3. INFANT MORTALITY

The Infantile Mortality rate is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding and maternal and child welfare.

There were 6 deaths of infants under 1 year of age during 1954. An increase of 2 over that of the previous year, which gives an Infantile Mortality Rate for the year of 18.1 per

1,000 live births. Although the Infantile Mortality Rate has risen 4.4 per 1,000 this year it still compares favourably with that of 25.5 which is the figure for the country as a whole.

The causes of Infant Deaths that occurred are given in Table 3.

TABLE 3
INFANT DEATHS

Cause				Place of Death	Males	Females
1.	Catarrhal Laryngitis	..	..	Home	—	6 weeks
2.	Cerebral Haemorrhage	..	..	Hospital	2 hours	—
3.	Persistent Atelectasis	..	..	Hospital	—	12 hours
4.	Pneumonia	..	..	Hospital	5 months	—
5.	Prematurity	..	..	Hospital	—	4 days
6.	Meningitis	..	..	Home	—	13 days

SECTION III

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Total number of the various Infectious Diseases notified during the year, the number of cases admitted to hospital or sanatorium and the number of deaths attributed to each disease in the Registrar-General's classification of deaths is given in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Disease	Cases Notified	Removed to Hospital or Sanatorium	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	41 (28)	23	—
Whooping Cough	151 (122)	—	—
Measles	3 (452)	1	—
Pneumonia	33 (44)	3	5
Dysentery	13 (9)	—	—
Tuberculosis :—			
Pulmonary	7 (12)	2	3
Non-Pulmonary	5 (3)	3	—
Erysipelas	1 (1)	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1 (—)	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	1 (—)	—	—
Food Poisoning	1 (7)	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	— (3)	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	— (1)	—	—
	257 (682)	32	8

2. Table 5 shows the age groups affected by the diseases notified.

TABLE 5

Age Group Distribution—Infectious Disease

Disease	Un- 1	0-5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	Ov- 55	Un- known	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	—	14	24	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	41
Whooping Cough	6	66	71	5	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	151
Measles ..	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia ..	1	8	3	2	1	—	2	4	1	1	1	—	8	1	33
Dysentery ..	—	3	4	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	13
Pulmonary T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	7
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	5
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	7	93	103	12	4	4	2	7	3	5	4	2	9	2	257

Footnote:—* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

There were 257 notifications received during the year of which Whooping Cough accounted for 151. The marked reduction from the previous year was due to the small number of measles notified, there being 452 the previous year. The Food Poisoning was one isolated case the cause of which was unknown.

In Appendix A is shown the distribution in the various parishes of cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1954.

TUBERCULOSIS

The death rate compares favourably with that of England and Wales being 1.5 per 10,000 for Swale Rural District and 1.6 per 10,000 for England and Wales. The advance in treatment of tuberculosis which has occurred within the past decade together with the ascertainment of earlier cases have combined to reduce the deaths from Tuberculosis to a marked extent and has resulted in a larger proportion of the patients being able to resume their employment and lead useful lives.

TABLE 6

Number of cases of Tuberculosis notified and number of deaths and the death rates each year from 1945-1954.

Year	Number of Primary Notifications received		Deaths		Death Rate per 10,000 of Population	
	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary
1945	14	3	10	2	6.03	1.2
1946	12	6	8	1	4.5	0.5
1947	10	3	9	—	5.01	0.0
1948	16	3	4	3	2.08	1.5
1949	11	5	5	3	2.6	1.5
1950	7	1	3	—	1.5	0.0
1951	12	4	4	—	2.04	0.0
1952	12	1	5	—	2.5	0.0
1953	12	3	3	—	1.5	0.0
1954	7	5	3	—	1.5	0.0

A summary of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register for the area at the end of 1954 is shown in Table 7. Though there has been over a period of years a gradual increase in the numbers on the Register (88 at the end of 1947, 149 at the end of 1954) this is neither unexpected nor alarming, but is due to the fact that the patients are on the Register for longer periods than previously.

TABLE 7

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
No. of cases on Register at 1st Jan., 1954 ..	57 (51)	50 (44)	16 (15)	16 (14)	139 (124)
New Cases	2 (8)	5 (4)	2 (1)	3 (2)	12 (15)
Restored to Register ..	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (1)
Transferred to Swale ..	4 (2)	1 (3)	— (—)	— (1)	5 (6)
	63 (61)	56 (52)	18 (16)	19 (17)	156 (146)
Died	2 (1)	1 (2)	— (—)	— (—)	3 (3)
Left Swale	2 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (1)	2 (1)
Recovered	— (3)	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	2 (3)
Cancelled Non-T.B. ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
	59 (57)	54 (50)	18 (16)	18 (16)	149 (139)

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation.—From figures supplied by courtesy of the County Medical Officer it appears that 248 children under 5 years of age and 29 children 5-15 years were immunised during 1954. It would also appear that of all children in the area under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1954, 3,500 had completed a course of immunisation before that date. The number of re-inforcing inoculations carried out (mainly children commencing school life) was 327 as compared with 363 in the previous year.

(ii) Vaccination.—Also by courtesy of the County Medical Officer it is reported that 215 primary vaccinations and 13 re-vaccinations were carried out, as compared with last year's figures which were 204 and 22 respectively. Of the 215 primary vaccinations 134 were of children under 1 year of age and 71 in children aged 1-5 years.

Footnote:—* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

SECTION IV

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Local Authority Health Services under the National Health Service Act are administered by the Kent County Council as the Local Health Authority. Those Services include the Care of Mothers and Young Children; the provision of Midwives; Home visiting and Home Nursing; Vaccination and Immunisation; Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care and the Domestic Help Services. Mental Welfare and the treatment and care of Tuberculosis patients is provided by the Regional Hospital Board.

School Health Services

Through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer, the following extracts from the Annual Report on the School Health Services in the Area are given.

(a) Medical Inspections :—

(i) Number of children inspected (periodic) ...	833
(ii) Number of special inspections	43
(iii) Number of re-inspections	363
(iv) Number of children found at periodic inspections to require treatment	86
(v) Percentage requiring treatment	7.1%

The defects found during these inspections are given in the following table from which it will be seen that eye defects and defects of the ear, nose and throat are still the principle reason for pupils requiring treatment.

Defects	Number
Eyes	40
Ears, nose and throat	29
Orthopaedic	16
Lungs	3
Heart and Circulation	1
Development	5
Psychological	15

(b) General Condition.

The classification of the general condition of children inspected was as follows :—

Groups	Number Inspected	Percentages		
		Good	Fair	Poor
Entrants	290 (415)	43.8 (37.8)	52.1 (56.9)	4.1 (5.3)
Second Age Group ..	220 (220)	49.1 (33.6)	45.9 (65.0)	5.0 (1.4)
Third Age Group ..	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Other periodic inspections	323 (316)	34.3 (32.3)	60.7 (52.2)	5.0(15.5)
	833 (951)	41.5 (35.0)	53.8 (57.2)	4.7 (7.8)

From these figures it would appear generally speaking the health of the school children in the area remains good. Under that classification the percentage classified as “ good ” increased from 35.0% in 1953 to 41.5% in 1954 with a corresponding decrease in those classified as “ fair ” and as “ poor.”

(c) Dental Inspection.

(i) Number inspected by County Dental Officers (Periodic and special)	603
(ii) Number found to require treatment	556
(iii) Percentage requiring treatment	92.2
(iv) Number actually treated	238
(v) Percentage treated	42.8

(d) Infestation with Vermin.

(i) Total number of examinations in the Schools by the School Nurse or other authorised persons	6,579 (5,925)
(ii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	22 (26)
(iii) Number of individual pupils in re- spect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2) Education Act, 1944)	4 (10)

Footnote:—* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

Section V

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supplies.

The Swale Rural District is well served by water mains and it is only the more isolated cottages which have to rely on wells or carted water. Supplies from the Mid Kent Water Co., serve the eastern parishes, and the Chatham Water Co., the western parishes, with Oare supplied from Faversham Water Co., and parts of Bobbing and Borden supplied by the Sittingbourne U.D.C.

A further 3 properties were connected to the main supply during the year and approximately 95% of the houses in the district have main water in the houses; 3.2% stand-pipes in the yards and 1.8% wells or carted water. A report was submitted on the water supply in the Rhode Common area (in the parishes of Dunkirk and Selling) when it was found that 5 properties have a private supply from a water main, 8 have wells and 1 rainwater tank. The possibility of providing a main supply to these properties is being investigated.

Samples from the main supplies in the area are submitted for examination by the County Pathologist once a quarter and all the reports in 1954 were entirely satisfactory. Report was received of an outbreak of food poisoning in another authority after some youths had been camping at Hernhill. Samples of the drinking water and lake water where they had been swimming were submitted for examination and no organisms were found which could have caused the outbreak. The wells at Nos. 1 and 2 and 3 and 4, Selling Road were improved by paving the area round the top and raising the curbing and a later sample showed some improvement in the supply.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

There are sewerage facilities in the parishes of Boughton, Lynsted, Teynham, Iwade, Newington, Oare and parts of the parishes of Rodmersham and Borden and the remaining parishes rely on the conservancy system.

During the year there were extensions of the sewers in Lynsted and Borden primarily for Housing Schemes but also

serving existing houses en route. Unfortunately difficulties have been met in the Lower Halstow and Newington Sewerage Scheme and this has caused some delay and a need for revision of some aspects. Work is proceeding on the scheme for alterations and improvements to the Boughton System.

3. Public Cleansing.

The service for the collection of house refuse and the emptying of cesspools is under the jurisdiction of the Engineer and Surveyor, who has at his disposal for this purpose 3 refuse lorries (2 working at a time and 1 spare) and 4 cesspool emptiers. The disposal of cesspool contents still presents great difficulty.

4. Rodent Control.

This service shows some improvement in that the number of premises inspected increased over the last year but the number of infestations found decreased. The effect that this control will have on the rat population will take some years to show but it is most encouraging to get an indication that it is going in the right direction. A lot of farmers and business people continue to treat their own premises with Warfarin poison and the figures indicate that the results are successful.

A slight infestation was found in the sewers at Lynsted but this was eradicated after one treatment.

The following table shows a summary of the work which has been done during the year but as it is more detailed and in a different form it is not possible to include last year's figures for comparison.

				Type of Property				
				Non-Agricultural				
				Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council)	All other (inc. Business Premises	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	Agricul- tural
<hr/>								
1. Number of properties in Local Authority				5	6456	334	6670	960
<hr/>								
II. Number of properties in- spected as a result of:								
(a) Notification				—	27	11	38	1
(b) Survey under the Act				5	1972	233	2205	168
<hr/>								
III. Total inspections car- ried out including re- inspections:				20	3037	207	3264	223
<hr/>								
IV. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:								
(a) Rats (Major)				3	19	3	25	2
(Minor)				2	37	—	39	—
(b) Mice (Major)				—	7	—	7	—
(Minor)				—	—	—	—	—
<hr/>								
V. Number of infested pro- perties treated by the L.A.				5	63	3	71	—
<hr/>								
VI. Total treatments carried out including re- treatments				16	65	3	84	—
<hr/>								
VII. Number of “ Block ” control schemes carried out				—	26	—	—	—

5. Disinfection and Disinfestation.

(i) In an effort to check the spread of infectious disease 79 visits were made for the purpose of enquiring into the cases and 104 rooms were disinfected following the removal of infectious patients. In connection with cases of suspected food poisoning 22 specimen of faeces were collected and forwarded to the County Laboratory for examination.

(ii) Fortunately there is little trouble with vermin in this area and infestations which are found are not heavy. During the year 17 visits were made for investigating complaints and advising on the treatment of vermin.

6. Inspection of District.

A summary of the visits made during the year is given in Appendix B.

SECTION VI

FOOD AND FOOD INSPECTION

Food Supplies

Conditions for the storage, preparation and distribution of food supplies in the area are generally good and the ready co-operation of food handlers and retailers is greatly appreciated. One informal notice was served during the year requiring the repair and cleansing of wall surfaces. This work was carried out immediately on the service of the notice.

A list of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption is shown in Appendix C.

(i) Milk

There was a further increase in the number of people selling "Sterilised" milk in bottles as received and the register shows :—

Registered Distributors of milk	...	...	24	(20)
Registered Dairies (other than Farms)	...	...	4	(4)

All the retailers sell milk with a special designation and the following licences have been issued by the Council.

(a) Dealers (Business in Swale)

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	3	(3)
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	13	(8)
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	3	(3)

(b) Supplementary (Business out of Swale but selling milk in the Swale District).

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	5	(5)
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	2	(2)
Tuberculin Tested (Raw)	...	...	...	...	6	(6)
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	1	(1)

Eleven samples were taken during the year, 8 Pasteurised, 2 "Sterilised," 1 "Tuberculin Tested," and all were found to be satisfactory.

Footnote:—* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(ii) **Ice Cream**

There is no ice cream made in the Swale Rural District but a further 5 premises were registered for the sale of ice cream during the year and this now brings the total number registered to 62.

Fifteen samples of ice cream were submitted for examination but one was unfortunately broken in transit. The other 14 were all placed in Grade 1.

(iii) **Meat**

A great deal of work was necessary to arrange for the return of private killing in July. The Council decided that it was not in the best interest of the community to prevent animals being killed and dressed in the Swale area provided that the premises were sufficient and suitable and the butchers interested. All the existing slaughterhouses were inspected and 6 butchers intimated their desire to do their own killing, one in Boughton, one in Doddington, two in Teynham, one in Bapchild and one in Upchurch. Applications were submitted for licences and a list of the works required to make the slaughterhouses suitable was sent out to the butchers. Only 5 proceeded to do the work and were duly licenced for 5 years.

Afterwards an application was received from a butcher at Newington for a licence to use his slaughterhouse but owing to the unsatisfactory siting and conditions the application was refused. There was no appeal.

Killing has proceeded satisfactorily and 100% inspection of carcasses and offal has been maintained.

The following table gives statistics as to the animals killed and the diseased conditions found,

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	222	19	20	413	336
Number Inspected	222	19	20	413	336
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	2	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	1	—	4	6
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ..	7.20	5.26	—	1.45	2.38
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole Carcasses con- demned	1	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	5	—	—	3
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	5.85	31.58	—	—	.89

(iv) Bakehouses

There are 4 bakehouses in use in the area and they are kept satisfactorily.

(v) Food and Drugs

The administration of the part of the Act concerning the quality and nature of articles for sale is administered by the County Council Weights and Measures Department and I am indebted to Mr. S. Strugnell, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, County Hall, Maidstone, for the summary of the work carried out in this area.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938-1950

Details of Samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the SWALE RURAL DISTRICT during the year ended 31st December, 1954.

Article	No.	Article	No.
Blanc Mange Powder ...	1	B/fd.	19
Bread and Butter	1	Margarine	2
Buttered Brazils	1	Marmalade	1
Butterscotch	1	Marzipan	1
Cherry Pie Ice Cream ...	1	Mersagel Fungicide	
Chewing Gum	1	Jelly	1
Cookeen	1	Milk	25
Dettol Ointment	1	Milky Chews	1
Eucalyptus Oil B.P.	1	Peppermint Flavouring	
Extra Cream Caramels	1	Essence	1
Friars Balsam	1	Pure Butter Almonds	
Gin	1	of Merit	1
Ginger Snap	1	Pure Malt Vinegar—	
Glucose Barleys	1	Pasteurised	1
Ground Almonds	1	Rubbing Oils (10 in 1) ...	1
Honey Crunch	2	Rum	1
Kidney and Back Pills ...	1	Spry	1
Limeade Tablets	1	Stewed Veal and Steak	1
	—	Tomato Ketchup	1
C/fd. ...	19	Tuna	1
	—	Whisky	1
		White Pepper	1
			—
		Total ...	61
			—

SUMMARY

Milks	25
Drugs	6
Spirits	3
Other samples	27
	—
	61
	—

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

Sample of	Analysis	Action taken
Honey Crunch	Inferior. Fat 39.1 % including 1.8 % butter fat in coating. Does not justify the term "milk chocolate coated."	Manufacturer believed to be out of business. Under investigation.
Honey Crunch	In coating, Fat 39.7 % including not more than 1.5 % butter fat ; Milk Solids not Fat 11.9 %. Butter fat content does not justify term "milk chocolate coated." Inferior.	
Marzipan	Inferior. Almonds not more than 33 % (claim 40 %).	Manufacturer notified.
Seville Orange Marmalade	Inferior. Soluble solids 69.5 % ; Fruit 15 %. SO ₂ absent. Deficient in fruit.	Under investigation.
Pasteurised Milk	Adulterated. Fat 3.6 %, Solids not Fat 8.4 % Contained 5.5 % extraneous water.	Probably due to faulty methods at dairy. Further sample satisfactory

Weights and Measures Department,
County Hall, Maidstone.

28th June, 1955.

SECTION VII

HOUSING

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act came into operation at the end of August but the hoped for incentive to the landlord to carry out repairs to obtain an increase in rent did not materialise. This was possibly due to the low valuation of property in this area and it may be that with the new valuation in April, 1956, more response will be obtained.

This Act also simplified the procedure for obtaining Grants for improvements under the Housing Act, 1949, and by the end of the year grants had been approved for the improvement of 32 houses. This scheme does seem to encourage the modernising of property, and help in improving the standard of housing accommodation in the area.

Again action for repair was confined to the Public Health Acts rather than the more detailed and complete action of the Housing Acts.

Statistics required by Article 31 of the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 give a summary of the work on housing carried out in the year.

Article 31 Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925

1.	The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation ...	163
2.	The number of houses the defects on which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ...	135
3.	The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders;	
	(a)	8
	(b)	8
4.	The number of notices served requiring the execution of works ...	7
5.	The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ...	3
6.	The number of demolition or closing orders made	4
7.	The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted ...	4
8.	The number of houses demolished.	
	By formal action	5
	By informal action	6

Individual Unfit Houses

As a result of action started in previous years the following 5 properties were demolished :—

Thatched Cottages, Cellar Hill, Lynsted (2).

Fir Tree Cottages, Bapchild (2).

4, Earthpit Cottages, Lower Halstow.

By action taken informally a further 6 houses which were unfit for human habitation were demolished voluntarily by the owners.

Reports were submitted on the following properties and the Council decided that they could not be made fit at a reasonable cost and took the action indicated.

1-4, Church Cottages, Tonge (Undertaking accepted).

16, 17, 18, The Street, Lower Halstow (Demolition Orders).

30, High Street, Newington (Closing Order).

New Houses

A total of 101 new houses were erected during the year, 47 by Private Enterprise and 54 by the Local Authority. This brings the number of Council Houses in the area to 1,093.

Hop Pickers' Camps

Improvements in the standard of accommodation for the hop pickers is being steadily maintained by perseverance and a good deal of attention before and during the season. Difficulty is now being met on this work by the fact that machine picking is in the offing and will be adopted more readily if Growers experience the same trouble in obtaining sufficient and suitable pickers as this season.

SECTION VIII

SHOPS AND FACTORIES

1. Shops Act

There are 201 shops in the area and 301 visits were made during the year. There was no necessity for the service of any notice under the Shops Acts as most of the shops are small family businesses and the administration of the provisions of the Act do not present much difficulty.

2. Factories Act 1937 and 1948

The factory register has been revised and there are 88 factories and workplaces in the area. During the year 48 visits were made and 1 informal notice for lack of cleanliness was served. This was remedied without any further action being necessary.

		Factories	Inspections
With Power ...	...	53	42
Without Power	...	14	6
Workplaces ...	...	21	—
		—	—
		88	48
		—	—

APPENDIX "A"

Distribution of cases of Infectious Disease by Parishes

	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary "	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Paratyphoid Fever	Food Poisoning	Total
Badlesmere	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bapchild	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Bobbing	2	5	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	9
Borden	3	6	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	14
Boughton	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Bredgar	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Buckland	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Doddington	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Dunkirk	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Eastling	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Faversham Without	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Goodnestone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Graveney	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Halstow, Lower ...	2	0	0	4	7	1	0	0	0	0	1	15
Hartlip	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Hernhill	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Iwade	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
Kingsdown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leaveland	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Luddenham	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Lynsted	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Milsted	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Newington	16	42	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
Newnham	3	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Norton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oare	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Ospringe	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Rodmersham	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Selling	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	5
Sheldwich	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Stalisfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teynham	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
Throwley	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tonge	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Tunstall	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Upchurch	2	1	0	12	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	21
	41	151	3	33	13	7	5	1	1	1	1	257

APPENDIX "B"

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS BY THE SANITARY

INSPECTORS

HOUSING

Housing Act, 1949	154
Visits under Housing Act, 1936	285
Re-visits under Housing Act, 1936	73
Council House Applications	225
Council House Tenancies	67

PUBLIC HEALTH

Complaints re Houses	265
Other Complaints	38
Re-visits (Houses)	844
Other Re-visits	62
Miscellaneous Visits under P.H.A.	60
Infectious Disease	79
Tents, Vans and Sheds	55
Hop-pickers' Camps	212
Fruit Pickers' Camps	5
Schools	7
Visits re Vermin	17
Smoke Observations	4

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND SHOPS

Food Premises :—

Bakehouses	6
Grocery and General	140
Restaurants	43
Inns	33
Butchers	45
Ice-Cream	9
Dairies	12
Shops (Non-food)	19
Slaughterhouses	316

FACTORIES

With Power	36
Non-Power	5
Re-visits	7

GENERAL

Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	...	50
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	408
Rat Destruction	...	...	...	...	...	80
Visits with M.O.H.	...	...	...	...	...	15
Visits with D.S.I.	...	...	...	...	...	7
Re Alterations and Extensions	...	...	...	...	...	21

WORK DONE BY INSPECTOR

Samples for Examination :—

Faeces	22
Water	17
Ice Cream	15
Milk	11

General :—

Rooms disinfected	104
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APPENDIX "C"

Food found to be unfit for human consumption

Beef		lbs.
2 Carcases and offal	Generalised Tuberculosis	1549
6 Heads and tongues	Localised Tuberculosis	218
7 Lungs	Localised Tuberculosis	107
2 Livers	Localised Tuberculosis	43
Miscellaneous	Localised Tuberculosis	20
8 Livers and part livers	Facioliasis	110
11 Livers and part livers	Abscess, Cysts, etc.	139
Miscellaneous	Heating, bruising	96
		<hr/>
		2282
		<hr/>
Pork		
1 Head and tongue	Localised Tuberculosis	10
1 Liver	Localised Tuberculosis	6
2 Lungs	Localised Tuberculosis	5
2 Carcases and offal	Acute septic peritonitis (traumatic)	90
	Pericariditis and oedema	140
3 Livers	Cirrhosis, cysts, etc. ...	20
Miscellaneous	Urticaria, milk fever, bruising, etc.	139
		<hr/>
		410
		<hr/>
Mutton		
2 Carcases and offal	Moribund and emaciation	132
1 Part leg	Broken	3
New Zealand lamb livers	Burnt	8
		<hr/>
		143
		<hr/>
Other Foods		
Liquid Eggs	Decomposition	70
Corned Beef	Faulty sealing	6
		<hr/>
		76
		<hr/>

Total weight of foodstuff 2,911 lbs.

APPENDIX "D"

	Public Health Act, 1936	Housing Act, 1936	Food & Drugs Act, 1936	Shops Act, 1950	Factories Act, 1937	Milk & Dairies Reg. 1949
Preliminary Notices served	163	—	1	—	1	—
Preliminary Notices complied with	135	—	1	—	1	—
Statutory Notices served	7	—	—	—	—	—
Statutory Notices complied with	3	—	—	—	—	—

2. WORK COMPLETED AS A RESULT OF ACTION TAKEN

(a) HOUSING DEFECTS REMEDIED

External :—

Roofs and flashings	...	...	...	...	35
Chimneys and flues	...	...	...	...	3
Eaves Gutters	...	...	...	...	11
R. W. Downpipes	...	...	...	...	15
Walls (brickwork, pointing, etc.)	...	...	...	...	10
Pavings, steps, etc.	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage systems provided	...	...	...	...	4
Drainage repaired/cleansed	...	...	...	...	73
Conversions—pails to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	3

Internal :—

Walls	...	...	...	...	...	17
Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	15
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	25
Windows	...	...	...	...	...	20
Doors	...	...	...	...	...	12
Ranges, etc., repaired/renewed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sinks provided/renewed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sink wastes renewed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Coppers repaired/provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Stairs repaired/improved	...	...	...	...	...	3
Foodstores ventilated/provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness otherwise abated	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water Supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
Privies repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dirty Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other repairs to houses	...	...	...	...	...	6

Reconditioning :—

Bathrooms provided	...	...	...	...	2
Hot-water Supplies provided	...	...	...	...	2
Houses reconstructed or extended	...	...	...	...	2

(b) FOOD PREMISES AND SHOPS

Walls, ceilings, floors, windows, doors repaired	1
Walls, ceilings, floors, windows, doors cleansed	4
Ventilation improved	1
Cleanliness improved	3